sum of many minor differences. Major ones, Clark's analogy rather conservatively suggests, would be "wasted"; the machine would never be able to work them off, or they would blow the whole thing apart.

Yet, if the original proves faulty or if its progeny veer too much from its idea, it or they must be scrapped. "Moral, intellectual, emotional, affectional qualities and instincts" are all potentially "hereditary taints" or inheritable disorders, the weak link in the chain "only as strong as the weakest link" (299), or the enemy in the fort "only as impregnable as its weakest part" and of which "the enemy has possession of the bulwarks" (1879, 300). All of these analogies consist of the obviously corrupt part, and a highly corruptible host -- the water, the chain, the fort -- that by virtue of not being entirely corrupt conveys and spreads the corruption through matter and time more effectively and insidiously than it could have done if it had been entirely diseased. The architectural aspect of the analogies suggests that by the time of writing the Asylum, elsewhere described as a pyramid (1888,4),[lix] or giant "barracks, erected as a laudatory monument to some ambitious architect" (1882, 48), had itself become a conspicuous example of "hereditary taint."[lx]

(Abstractions, Slow Processes)

Clark's related passions for minutiae, for minutely graduated processes, and for abstract personification of the same are all reflected in his discussion of the bureaucratically cumbersome and often tragically absurd admission process. In the case of a patient committed to gaol on the basis of a Lieutenant-Governor's warrant, when he is transferred to an Asylum a "statutory form" is completed by a judge, who must address such questions as whether or not he is "idiotic, imbecile, or incurable" (1876, 211), which of course he is unqualified to answer unless he is a doctor as well as a judge. The Superintendent sees the "statutory form" but never sees the medical certificates on the basis of which the original Lieutenant-Governor's Warrant is made, consigning the subject to gaol in the first place.

The warrants are obviously a provisional measure, an economy, a stop-gap prone to abuse. As Clark succinctly states, they "compel admission when a vacancy is due" (211), which might not be for years. When the patient is finally transferred his condition has changed; he might even be cured. But patients